

## Versions of the Buddhist Precepts

### Theravada

#### 5 Precepts for laypeople:

1. Abstain from taking life.
2. Abstain from taking what is not given.
3. Abstain from sexual misconduct.
4. Abstain from false speech.
5. Abstain from intoxicants causing heedlessness.

#### Additional Precepts for monastics:

6. Abstain from untimely eating.
7. Abstain from dancing, singing, music and unseemly shows
8. Abstain from wearing garlands, smartening with scents, and beautifying with perfumes.
9. Abstain from the use of high and luxurious couches.
10. Abstain from accepting gold and silver (money).

### Mahayana

#### 8 Precepts:

1. Abstain from killing (directly or indirectly)
2. Abstain from stealing
3. Abstain from sexual activity
4. Abstain from lying and deceiving
5. Abstain from intoxicants
6. Abstain from eating more than one meal that day
7. Abstain from sitting on animal skins or on a high, expensive bed or seat with pride
8. Abstain from wearing jewelry, perfume, and cosmetics and singing, dancing or playing music with attachment

### Japanese Zen

#### 16 Precepts:

##### I. The Three Pure Precepts

1. Keep all precepts
2. Practise all good Dharma
3. Save the many beings

##### II. The Three Vows of Refuge

1. I take refuge in the Buddha
2. I take refuge in the Dharma
3. I take refuge in the Sangha

##### III. The Ten Grave Precepts

1. Abstain from killing
2. Abstain from stealing
3. Abstain from misusing sex
4. Abstain from lying
5. Abstain from giving or taking drugs
6. Abstain from discussing faults of others
7. Abstain from praising yourself while abusing others
8. Abstain from sparing the Dharma assets
9. Abstain from indulging in anger
10. Abstain from defaming the Three Treasures